



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 3, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul B. Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, U. S. Magnesium, Rowley-Stansbury Project, M/045/008, Tooele County, Utah

Date and Time of Inspection: December 3, 2002, 10:25 to 11:45 a.m.
Conditions: Patchy fog, hazy, 40's
Participants: Don Silva, US Mag; Doug Jensen, Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

A representative of U. S. Magnesium asked that we visit the site to look at the reclamation that needs to be done in the borrow areas and in the areas that were mined for oolitic sands.

Observations and Recommendations:

There has been essentially no change since we last visited the site in August. We did look at and discuss one additional area. Near the south end of the oolitic sand mining area, there is a double ditch that used to bring water to a processing plant. Mr. Silva asked if we felt the ditch should be reclaimed, and we responded that it should be.

Our other recommendations did not change. In general, the operator needs to smooth out some of the piles of material and seed them. Some areas have enough desirable vegetation that they do not need to be seeded, and others have patchy vegetation where the operator should scarify the surface and seed in just part of the area. There are some places that need to be completely reseeded. There are also some depressions where we agreed seeding would probably not be beneficial.

Much of the oolitic sands area has a lot of cheatgrass, Russian thistle, and kochia, and the cheatgrass would normally have germinated by now. This has not happened because, according to Mr. Silva, the site has had essentially no fall rains.

The seed mix the Division recommended to the operator includes bottlebrush squirreltail, and Mr. Silva said seed of this species is unusually expensive, about \$25 per pound. Because this species does very well in reclamation seedings, competes well with weeds, and because it grows in the area, I would like to see it left in the seed mix. The operator might reduce the seeding rate to ½ pound PLS/acre.

The operator should begin this reclamation project as soon as possible to avoid possible problems with wet soil, including soil compaction.

jb
cc: Don Silva and Tom Tripp, US Magnesium
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